BEFORE THE MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Accusation)	
Against:)	
)	
PETER PRESSMAN, M.D.) Case No.	02-2012-226988
Physician's and Surgeon's)	
Certificate No. A 77300)	
)	
Respondent)	
	_)	

DECISION AND ORDER

The attached Stipulated Surrender of License and Order is hereby adopted as the Decision and Order of the Medical Board of California, Department of Consumer Affairs, State of California.

This Decision shall become effective at 5:00 p.m. on August 21, 2014

IT IS SO ORDERED August 14, 2014

MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA

Kimberly Kirchmeyer

Executive Director

1	KAMALA D. HARRIS		
2	Attorney General of California THOMAS S. LAZAR		
3	Supervising Deputy Attorney General JANNSEN TAN		
4			
5	California Department of Justice 1300 I Street, Suite 125		
6	P.O. Box 944255 Sacramento, CA 94244-2550		
7	Telephone: (916) 445-3496 Facsimile: (916) 327-2247		
8	Attorneys for Complainant		
9	BEFORE THE MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA		
10	DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA STATE OF CALIFORNIA		
11	STATE OF CAL	AT OR WIT	
12		Case No. 02-2012-226988	
13	In the Matter of the Accusation Against:	Cuse 140. 02 2012 220700	
14	PETER PRESSMAN, M.D. 2080 Child Street	STIPULATED SURRENDER OF	
15	Jacksonville, FL 32214	LICENSE AND DISCIPLINARY ORDER	
16	Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. A 77300		
17	Respondent.		
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19	IT IS HEREBY STIPULATED AND AGREE	ED by and between the parties to the above-	
20	entitled proceedings that the following matters are to	rue:	
21	PARTIES		
22	1. Kimberly Kirchmeyer (Complainant) is the Executive Director of the Medical Board		
23	of California. Linda K. Whitney, former Executive Director of the Medical Board, brought this		
24	action solely in her then official capacity and is represented in this matter by Kamala D. Harris,		
25	Attorney General of the State of California, by Jannsen Tan, Deputy Attorney General.		
26	2. Peter Pressman, M.D. (Respondent) is represented in this proceeding by attorney		
27	Nina J. Ginsberg, Esq., whose address is DiMuro Ginsberg PC, 1101 King Street, Suite 610,		
28	Alexandria, Virginia 22314.		
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- 3. On or about December 7, 2001, the Medical Board of California issued Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. A 77300 to Peter Pressman, M.D. (Respondent). The Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate was in full force and effect at all times relevant to the charges and allegations in Accusation No. 02-2012-226988, expired on January 31, 2013, and has not been renewed.
- 4. On May 17, 2013, the Medical Board of California notified Respondent that his Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. A 77300 has been, and remains, automatically suspended pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 2236.1. The suspension is based on Respondent's conviction and subsequent incarceration in a criminal proceeding entitled *United States of America v. Peter Pressman* in the United States District Court for the Eastern District, Alexandria, Virginia, Case Number 1:12-CR-390, in which Respondent pled guilty to a two count criminal information for obtaining controlled substances by fraud, and aggravated identity theft.

JURISDICTION

5. On May 29, 2013, Accusation No. 02-2012-226988 was filed against Respondent before the Medical Board of California (Board), Department of Consumer Affairs. On May 29, 2013, a true and correct copy of the Accusation No. 02-2012-226988, along with true and correct copies of all other statutorily required documents, were properly served on Respondent by certified mail, at his address of record on file with the Board which was and is 2080 Child Street Jacksonville, FL 32214. On July 23, 2013, Respondent filed his Notice of Defense contesting the Accusation. A true and correct copy of Accusation No. 02-2012-226988 is attached hereto as Exhibit "A," and incorporated by reference as if fully set forth herein.

ADVISEMENT AND WAIVERS

- 6. Respondent has carefully read, fully discussed with counsel, and fully understands the charges and allegations in Accusation No. 02-2012-226988. Respondent also has carefully read, fully discussed with counsel, and fully understands the effects of this Stipulated Surrender of Certificate and Disciplinary Order.
- 7. Respondent is fully aware of his legal rights in this matter, the right to a hearing on the charges and allegations in Accusation No. 02-2012-226988; the right to confront and cross-

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examine the witnesses against him; the right to present evidence and to testify on his own behalf; the right to the issuance of subpoenas to compel the attendance of witnesses and the production of documents; the right to reconsideration and court review of an adverse decision; and all other rights accorded by the California Administrative Procedure Act and other applicable laws.

8. Having the benefit of counsel, Respondent voluntarily, knowingly, and intelligently waives and gives up each and every right set forth hereby above.

CULPABILITY

- 9. Respondent admits the complete truth and accuracy of each and every charge and allegation in Accusation No. 02-2012-226988, agrees that cause exists for discipline and hereby surrenders his Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. A 77300 for the Board's formal acceptance.
- 10. Respondent understands that by signing this stipulation he enables the Executive Director of the Medical Board to issue an order accepting the surrender of his Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. A 77300 on behalf of the Board, without further notice or opportunity to be heard.

CONTINGENCY

- 11. Business and Professions Code section 2224, subdivision (b), provides, in pertinent part, that the Medical Board "shall delegate to its executive director the authority to adopt a stipulation for surrender of a license."
- 12. This Stipulated Surrender of Certificate and Disciplinary Order shall be subject to approval of the Executive Director on behalf of the Medical Board. The parties agree that this Stipulated Surrender of Certificate and Disciplinary Order shall be submitted to the Executive Director for her consideration in the above-entitled matter and, further, that the Executive Director shall have a reasonable period of time in which to consider and act on this Stipulated Surrender of Certificate and Disciplinary Order after receiving it. By signing this stipulation, Respondent fully understands and agrees that he may not withdraw his agreement or seek to rescind this stipulation prior to the time the Executive Director, on behalf of the Medical Board, considers and acts upon it.

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ADDITIONAL PROVISIONS

or of any matter or matters related hereto.

This Stipulated Surrender of Certificate and Disciplinary Order is intended by the 14. parties herein to be an integrated writing representing the complete, final and exclusive embodiment of the agreements of the parties in the above-entitled matter.

The parties agree that this Stipulated Surrender of Certificate and Disciplinary Order

The parties agree that copies of this Stipulated Surrender of Certificate and 15. Disciplinary Order, including copies of the signatures of the parties, may be used in lieu of original documents and signatures and, further, that such copies and signatures shall have the same force and effect as originals.

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16. In consideration of the foregoing admissions and stipulations, the parties agree the Executive Director of the Medical Board may, without further notice to or opportunity to be heard by Respondent, issue and enter the following Disciplinary Order on behalf of the Board:

DISCIPLINARY ORDER

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. A 77300, issued to Respondent Peter Pressman, M.D., is surrendered and accepted by the Medical Board of California.

- 1. The surrender of Respondent's Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. A 77300, and the acceptance of the surrendered license by the Board shall constitute the imposition of discipline against Respondent. This stipulation constitutes a record of the discipline and shall become a part of Respondent's license history with the Medical Board of California.
- 2. Respondent shall lose all rights and privileges as a Physician and Surgeon in California as of the effective date of the Board's Decision and Order.
- 3. Respondent shall cause to be delivered to the Board his pocket license and, if one was issued, his wall certificate on or before the effective date of the Decision and Order.
- 4. If Respondent ever files an application for licensure or a petition for reinstatement in the State of California, the Board shall treat it as a petition for reinstatement. Respondent must comply with all the laws, regulations and procedures for reinstatement of a revoked license in effect at the time the petition is filed, and all of the charges and allegations contained in Accusation No. 02-2012-226988 shall be deemed to be true, correct and fully admitted by Respondent when the Board determines whether to grant or deny the petition.
- 5. If Respondent should ever apply or reapply for a new license or certification, or petition for reinstatement of a license, by any other health care licensing agency in the State of California, all of the charges and allegations contained in Accusation No. 02-2012-226988 shall be deemed to be true, correct, and fully admitted by Respondent for the purpose of any Statement of Issues or any other proceeding seeking to deny or restrict licensure.

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ACCEPTANCE 1 I have carefully read this Stipulated Surrender of Certificate and Disciplinary Order. I 2 understand the stipulation and the effect it will have on my Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate 3 No. A 77300. I enter into this Stipulated Surrender of Certificate and Disciplinary Order 4 voluntarily, knowingly, and intelligently, and agree to be bound by the Decision and Order of the 5 Medical Board of California. 6 7 DATED: 8 9 Respondent 10 I have read and fully discussed with Respondent Peter Pressman, M.D. the terms and 11 conditions and other matters contained in this Stipulated Surrender of Certificate and Disciplinary 12 Order. I approve its form and content. 13 14 Attorney for Responden 15 16 **ENDORSEMENT** 17 The foregoing Stipulated Surrender of Certificate and Disciplinary Order is hereby 18 respectfully submitted for consideration by the Medical Board of California of the Department of 19 20 Consumer Affairs. 21 Respectfully submitted, 22 KAMALA D. HARRIS 23 Attorney General of California THOMAS S. LAZAR 24 Supervising Deputy Attorney General 25 26 JANNSEN TAN Deputy Attorney General 27

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Attorneys for Complainant

1	KAMALA D. HARRIS	FILED STATE OF CALIFORNIA		
2	Attorney General of California THOMAS S. LAZAR	MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA		
3	Supervising Deputy Attorney General JANNSEN L. TAN	SAGRAMENTO MAY 29 20 13 BY MY HOMA GLAWIN ANALYST		
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7	Facsimile: (916) 327-2247 Attorneys for Complainant			
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9	MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS			
10	STATE OF C	CALIFORNIA		
11	In the Matter of the Accusation Against:	Case No. 02-2012-226988		
12	PETER PRESSMAN, M.D.			
13	2080 Child Street Jacksonville, FL 32214	ACCUSATION		
14				
15	Physician's and Surgeon's License No. A 77300			
16	Respondent.	·		
17				
18	Complainant alleges:	THE C		
19		RTIES		
20		ings this Accusation solely in her official capacity		
21	as the Executive Director of the Medical Board of California, Department of Consumer Affairs.			
22		Medical Board of California issued Physician's		
23	and Surgeon's License Number A 77300 to Pete	r Pressman, M.D. (Respondent). The Physician's		
24	and Surgeon's License expired on January 31, 2013, and has not been renewed.			
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Accusation (Case No. 02-2012-226988)

JURISDICTION

- 3. This Accusation is brought before the Medical Board of California (Board), Department of Consumer Affairs, under the authority of the following laws. All section references are to the Business and Professions Code unless otherwise indicated.
- 4. Section 2227 of the Code provides that a licensee who is found guilty under the Medical Practice Act may have his or her license revoked, suspended for a period not to exceed one year, placed on probation and required to pay the costs of probation monitoring, or such other action taken in relation to discipline as the Board deems proper.
- 5. Section 490 of the Code provides, in pertinent part, that a board may suspend or revoke a license on the ground that the licensee has been convicted of a crime substantially related to the qualifications, functions, or duties of the business or profession for which the license was issued.
 - 6. Section 2234 of the Code states:

"The [B]oard shall take action against any licensee who is charged with unprofessional conduct. In addition to other provisions of this article, unprofessional conduct includes, but is not limited to, the following:

"(a) Violating or attempting to violate, directly or indirectly, assisting in or abetting the violation of, or conspiring to violate any provision of this chapter [Chapter 5, the Medical Practice Act].

"

"(e) The commission of any act involving dishonesty or corruption which is substantially related to the qualifications, functions, or duties of a physician and surgeon.

" . . . , ,

7. Unprofessional conduct under California Business and Professions Code section 2234 is conduct which breaches the rules or ethical code of the medical profession, or conduct which is unbecoming a member in good standing of the medical profession, and which demonstrates an unfitness to practice medicine. (*Shea v. Board of Medical Examiners* (1978) 81 Cal.App.3d 564, 575.)

8. Section 2236 of the Code states:

- A(a) The conviction of any offense substantially related to the qualifications, functions, or duties of a physician and surgeon constitutes unprofessional conduct within the meaning of this chapter [Chapter 5, the Medical Practice Act]. The record of conviction shall be conclusive evidence only of the fact that the conviction occurred.
- A(b) The district attorney, city attorney, or other prosecuting agency shall notify the Division¹ of Medical Quality of the pendency of an action against a licensee charging a felony or misdemeanor immediately upon obtaining information that the defendant is a licensee. The notice shall identify the licensee and describe the crimes charged and the facts alleged. The prosecuting agency shall also notify the clerk of the court in which the action is pending that the defendant is a licensee, and the clerk shall record prominently in the file that the defendant holds a license as a physician and surgeon.
- A(c) The clerk of the court in which a licensee is convicted of a crime shall, within 48 hours after the conviction, transmit a certified copy of the record of conviction to the board. The division may inquire into the circumstances surrounding the commission of a crime in order to fix the degree of discipline or to determine if the conviction is of an offense substantially related to the qualifications, functions, or duties of a physician and surgeon.
- A(d) A plea or verdict of guilty or a conviction after a plea of nolo contendere is deemed to be a conviction within the meaning of this section and Section 2236.1. The record of conviction shall be conclusive evidence of the fact that the conviction occurred.@
 - 9. Section 2237 of the Code states:
- A(a) The conviction of a charge of violating any federal statutes or regulations or any statute or regulation of this state, regulating dangerous drugs or controlled substances, constitutes unprofessional conduct. The record of the conviction is conclusive evidence of such

¹ California Business and Professions Code section 2002, as amended and effective January 1, 2008, provides that, unless otherwise expressly provided, the term "[B]oard" as used in the Medical Practice Act refers to the Medical Board of California. References to the "Division of Medical Quality" and "Division of Licensing" set forth in the Medical Practice Act are also referable to the Medical Board of California.

 unprofessional conduct. A plea or verdict of guilty or a conviction following a plea of nolo contendere is deemed to be a conviction within the meaning of this section.

- A(b) Discipline may be ordered in accordance with Section 2227 or the Division of Licensing may order the denial of the license when the time for appeal has elapsed, or the judgment of conviction has been affirmed on appeal, or when an order granting probation is made suspending the imposition of sentence, irrespective of a subsequent order under the provisions of Section 1203.4 of the Penal Code allowing such person to withdraw his or her plea of guilty and to enter a plea of not guilty, or setting aside the verdict of guilty, or dismissing the accusation, complaint, information, or indictment.@
 - 10. Section 2238 of the Code states:

AA violation of any federal statute or federal regulation or any of the statutes or regulations of this state regulating dangerous drugs or controlled substances constitutes unprofessional conduct.@

11. Health and Safety Code section 11170 provides that, "No person shall prescribe, administer, or furnish a controlled substance for himself."

FIRST CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Conviction of Crimes Substantially Related to the Qualifications, Functions for Duties of a Physician and Surgeon)

- 12. Respondent is subject to discipline under sections 2227 and 2234, as defined by sections 490 and 2236, of the Code, in that he has been convicted of crimes substantially related to the qualifications, functions or duties of a physician and surgeon as more particularly alleged hereinafter:
- 13. On or about September 13, 2012, in a criminal proceeding entitled *United States of America v. Peter Pressman* in the United States District Court for the Eastern District, Alexandria Virginia, Case Number 1:12-CR-390, Respondent pled guilty to a two count criminal information charging Respondent with obtaining controlled substances by fraud, in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Section 843(a), and aggravated identity theft, in violation of Title 18, United States Code section 1028A. Respondent was sentenced to two (2) years imprisonment as to count

1, to run consecutive to one (1) day imprisonment as to count 2, for a total sentence of 2 years and 1 day to be served in a federal prison. The Respondent was also ordered to complete a residential drug treatment program and remain drug free and other terms and conditions.

- 14. The circumstances of Respondent's conviction are as follows:
- A. The Federal Employees Health Benefits Program (FEHBP) is a federally funded healthcare benefits program funded by the Federal government for the benefit of government employees, retirees, and their dependents. The FEHBP is administered by the Office of Personnel Management.
- B. From in or about January, 2011, through in or about November, 2011, Respondent was an active duty U.S. Navy Doctor stationed on a detail to the Pentagon, located in Arlington, Virginia, in the Eastern District of Virginia.
- C. From in or about January, 2011, through in or about November, 2011, Respondent engaged in a scheme to call in fraudulent prescriptions to local pharmacies using the names and identities of patients, co-workers, and others to obtain controlled substances for his own use. The fraudulent prescriptions led to the submission of materially false claims to BlueCross BlueShield via their pharmacy benefit manager, CVS/Caremark, in order to receive medications which Respondent never provided to various beneficiaries of the FEHBP and other health care benefit programs. Respondent called in and picked up each of the prescriptions at the CVS Pharmacy located in the Pentagon in Arlington, Virginia, in the Eastern District of Virginia.
- D. Respondent wrote the following prescriptions using the identity of victim G.H., which Respondent picked up himself claiming to act on behalf of G.H. when, in truth and fact, he was not:
- On August 11, 2011, one prescription for 300 tablets of hydrocodone/IBU, a Schedule III narcotic; and one prescription for 100 tablets of hydrocodone/acetaminophen, a Schedule III narcotic.
- On September 7, 2011, one prescription for 200 tablets of hydrocodone/IBU, a Schedule III narcotic.

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narcotic.

•	On September 6, 2011, one prescription for 200 tablets of hydrocodone/IBU, a
Schedule I	II narcotic.

- F. Respondent wrote the following prescriptions using the identity of victim H.B., which Respondent picked up himself claiming to act on behalf of H.B. when, in truth and fact he was not:
- On April 22, 2011, one prescription for 100 tablets of hydrocodone-acetaminophen, a Schedule III narcotic; and one prescription for 10 tablets of levaquin.
- On May 23, 2011, one prescription for 100 tablets of hydrocodone-acetaminophen, a
 Schedule III narcotic; and one prescription for 200 tablets of hydrocodone, a Schedule III
 narcotic.
- On July 22, 2011, one prescription for 200 tablets of hydrocodone, a Schedule III narcotic; and one prescription for 100 tablets hydrocodone-acetaminophen, a Schedule III narcotic.
- On September 22, 2011, one prescription for 100 tablets of hydrocodoneacetaminophen, a Schedule III narcotic; one prescription for 300 tablets of hydrocodone, a Schedule III narcotic; and one prescription for 28 tablets of cephalexin.
- G. Respondent wrote the following prescriptions using the identity of victim E.C., which Respondent picked up himself claiming to act on behalf of E.C. when, in truth and fact, he was
- On April 18, 2011, one prescription for 200 tablets of hydrocodone/IBU, a Schedule III narcotic; and one prescription for 100 tablets of hydrocodone/acetaminophen, a Schedule III narcotic.
- On May 4, 2011, one prescription for 200 tablets of hydrocodone/IBU, a Schedule III narcotic.
- On June 15, 2011, one prescription for 200 tablets of hydrocodone/IBU, a Schedule III narcotic; and one prescription for 100 tablets of hydrocodone/acetaminophen, a Schedule III narcotic.

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not:

Respondent picked up himself claiming to act on behalf of B.O. when, in truth and fact, he was

which Respondent picked up himself claiming to act on behalf of L.C. when, in truth and fact, he was not:

- L. These fraudulent claims resulted in losses to the FEHBP of at least \$1,622.70, and losses to Tricare of at least \$1,176.59.
- M. In or about February, 2012, and April, 2012, in the District of Maine, Respondent prescribed over 585 narcotics tablets and 480 units of liquid narcotics using the name, date of birth, and address of victim G.O., which Respondent picked up himself claiming to act on behalf of G.O. when, in truth and fact, he was not:
- N. Between in or about January, 2010, and July, 2012, in the District of Columbia, Respondent prescribed over 2100 narcotics tablets and over 900 units of liquid narcotics using the names, dates of birth, and addresses of victims A.E., A.P., G.O., and C.K. Respondent picked up these prescriptions himself claiming to act on behalf of these individuals when, in truth and fact, he was not:
- O. Between in or about January, 2010, and July, 2012, in the District of Columbia, Respondent prescribed 450 narcotics pills using names, dates of birth, and addresses of fictional and/or deceased individuals, including "Norma Daniels" and "Harry Slikerman." Respondent picked up these pills himself claiming to act on behalf of these individuals when, in truth and fact, he was not, and when he was aware that such individuals were fictional and/or deceased.
- P. Between in or about June, 2012, and July, 2012, in Jacksonville, Florida, Respondent prescribed over 900 narcotics tablets using names, dates of birth, and addresses of fictional and/or deceased individuals, including "Norma Daniels," "Eleanor Sherman," "Harry Slikerman," and "Harry Daniels." Respondent picked these up himself claiming to act on behalf of these individuals when, in truth and fact, he was not, and when he was aware that such individuals were fictional and/or deceased.

SECOND CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE (Dishonesty or Corruption)

15. Respondent is further subject to discipline under sections 2227 and 2234, as defined by section 2234, subdivision (e), of the Code, in that he has committed an act or acts of dishonesty or corruption substantially related to the qualifications, functions or duties of a physician and surgeon as more particularly alleged hereinafter: Paragraphs 12, 13 and 14, above, are hereby incorporated by reference and realleged as if fully set forth herein.

THIRD CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(General Unprofessional Conduct)

16. Respondent is further subject to discipline under sections 2227 and 2234, as defined by section 2234 of the Code, in that he has engaged in conduct which breaches the rules or ethical code of the medical profession, or conduct which is unbecoming a member in good standing of the medical profession, and which demonstrates an unfitness to practice medicine, as more particularly alleged hereinafter: Paragraphs 12, 13, 14 and 15, above, are hereby incorporated by reference and realleged as if fully set forth herein.

PRAYER

WHEREFORE, Complainant requests that a hearing be held on the matters herein alleged, and that following the hearing, the Medical Board of California issue a decision:

- 1. Revoking or suspending Physician's and Surgeon's License Number A 77300, issued to Peter Pressman, M.D.;
- 2. Revoking, suspending or denying approval of Peter Pressman, M.D.'s authority to supervise physician's assistants, pursuant to section 3527 of the Code;
- 3. Ordering Peter Pressman, M.D., to pay the costs of probation monitoring, if placed on probation; and;
 - 4. Taking such other and further action as deemed necessary and proper

DATED: <u>May 29, 2013</u>

LINDA K. WHITNEY Executive Director

Medical Board of Zalifornia

State of California

Complainant

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